

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application; claims 13 and 14 are newly added.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Claims 6 and 7 are amended to eliminate compound multiple dependencies. Claims are also amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label numbers, and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

New dependent claims are added to at least partially restore the original range of claims that existed before compound multiple dependencies were removed. No new matter is added.

The Office action objects to claim 11 for failing to specify which of the claims it is dependent upon. The applicant fails to understand this objection; claim 11 is a multiple dependent claim that clearly states that it is depend upon any one of claims 8-10, as does claim 12, which was not objected to. The Claims Worksheet of 1 February 2005 indicates that both claims 11 and 12 are dependent upon three claims.

The Office action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for a typographical error; claim 9 is correspondingly amended herein.

The Office action rejects claims 1-5 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Inukai et al. (USP 6,680,577, hereinafter Inukai). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Inukai teaches a conventional digital drive scheme, wherein pixel intensities are determined by the amount of time that the pixel is illuminated: "Gradation display is performed in accordance with a time division driver method which controls the amount of time an EL element formed in a pixel emits light, and the amount of time it does not emit light" (Inukai's Abstract, lines 3-6). That is, in Inukai, the pixel is either "on" or "off", and the illumination is based on the relative time that the pixel is "on" and "off".

The applicants teach a combination of an analogue drive scheme and a time division driver method, wherein the illumination of each pixel is dependent upon both the amount of current that is applied, as well as the amount of time that this current is applied. The terms "digital" and "analogue" are conventionally used to distinguish the use of binary (on-off) signal levels, and non-binary (more than two) signal levels. The claims have been amended to specifically recite that the plurality of drive currents includes more than two signal levels.

The Office action asserts that Inukai teaches the use of more than two drive current levels at FIGs. 5A-5F, column 3, lines 25-40, and column 5, lines 38-63 (Office action, page 4, lines 12-14). The applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. At the cited text, Inukai teaches providing the N different pixel intensities by controlling the amount of time that the (single) non-zero drive current is applied.

Because Inukai specifically teaches a digital drive scheme, and does not teach a plurality of drive currents that include more than two current levels, as claimed in each of independent claims 1 and 8, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Inukai.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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